

### Sura Sad, Verse 20

وَشَدَدْنَا مُلْكَهُ وَأَتَيْنَاهُ الْحِكْمَةَ وَفَصَّلَ الْخِطَابِ

And We strengthened his kingdom and We gave him wisdom and a clear judgment.

#### Reflections

- What were the gifts given to Nabi Dawood according to this verse?
- how was his kingdom strengthened?
- what are the benefits of wisdom?
- what does clear judgement mean?

#### Tafsir

In this verse Almighty Allah talks about the blessings that Nabi Dawood was given. His Kingdom was strengthened. God gave him the ability to lead his kingdom well and please his people. His habits as a King included concern for his people, being fair to all, fulfilling their needs, humility towards them, God consciousness, etc. Through the strength given to him by God he was able to overcome his enemies and counter all that weakened his kingdom. To strengthen anything, including the soul, we must add good to it and remove evil.

Among the gifts Allah granted Nabi Dawood was the gift of wisdom. Wisdom is knowledge with the ability to apply that knowledge. Knowledge alone is not enough. It is just information. But when it is applied practically and appropriately it is known as wisdom. Wisdom is very valuable and a verse of the Quran says, *and whoever has been granted wisdom has indeed been granted a lot of good* (2: 269) The wisdom given to Nabi Dawood was specifically the ability to lead his people well.

The third blessing in this verse is the clear judgement. Nabi Dawood was a superb judge. He was able to judge wisely and firmly. The word *fasl* means separating, as in separating the two opposing sides, or separating the truth from falsehood. The word *khitab* is the conversation or talk between the two people. Nabi Dawood listened to both sides and then separated the two with wisdom and justice.

Some commentators also say that the last blessing in this verse also refers to the eloquence of Nabi Dawood that was firm and strong. It was evidence of his deep and high level thinking. He used this to lead people to the truth. His powerful eloquence made people listen to him and

follow him. To be able to speak well is a great gift and should be used in God's way. One of the gifts that the Ahlul Bayat (a) were given was also the gift of eloquence. We have examples from the lives of Imam Ali (a) and others where their speeches and poetry moved people to tears.

This verse was to remind the Prophet and the early Muslims, as well as all Muslims to come, that God can give great and effective gifts to whoever He pleases. It is a reminder that success in all aspects comes only from God. It will come when God wants it to come.

Note that no Kingdom or leadership can be established without what Nabi Dawood has been given. A good leader needs God consciousness, wisdom, justice, and eloquence.

### **Relevant Verses**

Nabi Dawood given kingdom and wisdom, 2:251

Prophet Ibrahim's family given wisdom - 4:54

Verses on Wisdom - 2:269, 3:164

### **Hadith**

A Hadith from Nabi Dawood;

An intelligent person must keep aside time for four things;

- a) To pray to his Lord
- b) To take account of himself
- c) To mingle with brethren in faith who will show him his faults
- d) To enjoy lawful and respectable pleasures for this will help him with the other (three).

### **Important Lessons**

- 1) All abilities that human beings have are gifts from God
- 2) Good leadership includes wisdom and just judgement
- 3) Eloquence must be used to lead people towards the truth
- 4) Any role that a believer plays can be strengthened with the gifts of God
- 5) Wisdom, Justice, and Eloquence were common qualities of the Divinely chosen leaders.

### **Story**

God once told Nabi Dawood , ‘ Go to Khaladah, daughter of Aws, and give her glad tidings of Paradise. Tell her that she will be one of your companions in Paradise.

Nabi Dawood went to her house and knocked at the door. She opened the door. Seeing him she asked if there had been any revelation he wanted to tell her about. When he told her about God's message she was very surprised. 'It cannot be' she said. 'I have done nothing to deserve that. maybe it is someone else He means who has the same name as me'.

Nabi Dawood told her he was sure the revelation was about her. He asked her to tell him more about herself.

She said; 'No pain has ever afflicted me, nor harm, nor need, nor hunger of any kind but that I have endured it. I thank God for everything and praise Him. I am pleased with whatever He chooses to give me.'

Nabi Dawood said, 'It is because of this quality that you have reached such a station.'

### **Possible Ideas for activities**

- 1) Choose a theme to focus on; Wisdom, Just judgement, or Eloquence. Explore it in depth with the students. Make a web with words about it on the board, let students write a story about, do an activity on it - for example put up scenarios on posters around the class. What would a wise/unwise person do in each situation? How would a just person react in each situation?
- 2) Identify good leaders - past or present. Make a list of qualities necessary for good leadership. Connect it to present day leaders. Let each student talk about what he/she would do if granted leadership.
- 3) Differentiate between knowledge and wisdom. Let students write or draw, make posters etc. about the differences. Knowledge is . . . Wisdom is . . . . They could write a poem or just sentences.



### **Sources:**

Āytaullāh Nāsir Makārim Shirāzī (ed), *Tafsīr-e Namūneh*;

Aghae Muhsin Qaraati, *Tafsire Nur*

Shaykh Rizwan Arastu, *God's Emissaries: Adam to Jesus*